



Press Release

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CERT "Community Emergency Response Team" Training Scheduled Throughout Montana

Helena, Mont – July 22, 2003

Montana Disaster and Emergency Services has released the initial schedule of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings to be held around the state.

CERT is a 20-hour emergency preparedness training program for citizens that could be involved in supporting emergency management in cooperation with local government. CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people they serve.

According to Jim Greene, administrator for Disaster and Emergency Services, "Crises happen at the community level. Training our neighbors assures Montana communities are better prepared for the hazards we face."

The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic emergency preparedness and response skills. CERT members may then be integrated into emergency response efforts.

If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional response, CERT members may assist others by applying the basic response and organizational skills they learned during this training. These skills can help save and sustain lives in disaster situations and during daily emergencies.

CERT Training schedule:

Miles City, August 8-10

Missoula, August 22-24

Lewistown, September 26-28

Dates for an additional training to be held this October in Great Falls are unconfirmed. A brochure describing the goals of the training and an application may be found on the state's web site at www.discoveringmontana.com/dma/des/.

There is no charge for CERT training.

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